Recruitment and promotions in FCI

1085. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOODAND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that gross injustice has been done to the ST employees in FCI throughout the country in the matter of recruitments and promotions;

(b) if so, the details of the steps to settle the issue with aview to give justice to the ST employees under FCI; and

(c) the details of Government's policy to fill up all backlogs Of ST quota within the department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOODAND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No injustice has been done to ST employees in FCI in the matter of recruitments and promotions. Grievances of ST employees are attended to promptly.

(c) The policy of Government contemplates that all the reservation quotas will be fulfilled in a time bound manner by launching Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) for filling the backlog reserved vacancies of SC/ST in Direct Recruitment and Promotions in FCI.

Reviving PDS

1086. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOODAND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the Public Distribution System in force in the country;

(b) the details of the view points expressed by various State Governments in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present BPL formula has become a myth;

(d) whether Government have decided to evolve a fresh formula in this regard; and

(e) whether the present policy as regard APL is proposed to be continued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Review of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is a continuous process. The Government is taking a number of steps to strengthen and improve the TPDS. The TPDS is operated under the Joint responsibility of the Central and the State Government wherein the Central Government is responsible for procurement of foodgrains, storage and their transportation up to the Principal Distribution Centers of FCI and the State Government are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue of ration cards and distribute foodgrains through a vast net work of 4.89 lakh Fair Price Shops scattered all over the country. The Central and the State Governments work in close coordination in this behalf for the best implementation of TPDS.

Five Regional Conferences have been held during 2005-06 and a number of issues were discussed to strengthen TPDS, such as Review of BPL/ AAY list, to eliminate ghost ration cards; implementation of PDS (Control) Order in letter & spirit; improving transparency by involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) Members in the Public Distribution System; preference may be given to Self Help Groups; Gram Panchayats & Cooperatives for giving FPS Licenses; BPL/AAY list to be displayed by all FPSs; Introduction of Door Step Delivery of foodgrains; making timely availability of foodgrains at FPS; training of Members at FPS level, Vigilance Committee including Members of PRIs and computerization of PDS operations. The participating State Governments/UTAdministrations were requested to take immediately necessary actions to strengthen the TPDS.

(c) and (d) Estimation of Poverty in the country is done by the Planning Commission through the quinquennial Sample Survey of Consumption Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The Planning Commission has defined poverty in terms of the per capita monthly expenditure corresponding to per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined in this way

covers the expenditure^ food and non-food items, such as, fuel, clothing, housing, health, education and social services. These Estimates of Poverty are available at the State level as well as national level for the year 1999-2000.

The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical assistance to the States and the UTs to conduct the BPL Census in the beginning of every Five Year Plan to identify the poor households in the rural areas who could be targeted under the programmes of the Ministry. For the 10th Five Year Plan, the BPL Census, 2002 has been conducted. The results of the BPL Census 2002 were delayed because of the stay order passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Now after the vacation of the stay on 14.02.2006, the Ministry has already issued the guidelines to the States and UTs to finalise the results.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Procurement Policy

†1087. DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC - DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to lapses in the procurement policy, less procurement of wheat is taking place in public sector,

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that procurement of wheat in public sector was sufficient in the year 2002-03 despite the less production of wheat whereas there has been less procurement in the year 2005-06 inspite of more production comparatively; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) As per the existing procurement policy for foodgrains,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.